

President Emeritus - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ President - Patrick Negus, W2PMN Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
Secretary - David Jaeger, Jr. - K2DEJ Treasurer, Pete Brickman, KD2YLG
Board Members: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ - Don Mayotte, KB2CDX

Club Elections Slate Set for April Meeting

The annual election of EGARA officers and a board member will take place at the club's regular membership meeting on April 9th. Former President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, has been nominated to return to that post in addition to his current position as a Board member.

Meanwhile, Matt Saplin, W2SAP, has agreed to run for Vice President, replacing Walt Snyder, N2WJR, who has decided to run instead for the one open Board seat. Also running for the Board post is David Gillette, KC2RPU. Each year, one of the three board positions opens for a three years term, allowing the vacancies to be filled on a staggered basis.

Once again, the club's current Treasurer, Pete Brickmen, KD2YLG, is running for reelection, as is David Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ, who is seeking another year as the club's Secretary.

In addition, prior to the membership vote, additional nominations for all of the open positions will be accepted from the floor. Any club member in good standing is eligible to run and vote. Eligibility includes members dues being current. Any member who needs to bring their dues current can pay them at the meeting prior to the election, or online at www.WGARA.org/pay-dues. The payment link can also be found on the homepage of the club's website.



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Estate Sales Made at RPI Swapfest



The club took advantage of the recent RPI Hamfest to sell some of the many items donated to the club by the estate of a Guilderland resident. The money raised is being used to support club activities, which include equipment purchases, outreach, licensing exams and education programs.

On hand to assist at the RPI event on March 21st were club members Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, Walt Synder, N2WJR, Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, and David Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ. Items sold included radios and computer accessories.

The club also gained a new member at the Hamfest, James Arnold of Troy. He is now studying for his Tech license and hopes to take the exam soon.

EGARA to Host Amateur Radio Open House

The club will celebrate World Amateur Radio Day with an open house at the East Greenbush Library on April 25th from 1 to 4 pm, providing visitors the opportunity to operate an HF rig as well as pick up a wide range of informational brochures about the hobby and its role in community service. Membership applications will also be available for those who wish to join EGAR.

“It’s a great opportunity to raise public awareness of both Amateur Radio and EGAR,” said Board member Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “We are particularly interested in reaching young people to promote Amateur Radio’s role in STEM education -- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.”

The event also offers EGAR the chance to reshape perceptions of Amateur Radio and demonstrate how it serves as a steppingstone and testbed for young people pursuing STEM education and high-tech careers.

“The notion of hams sitting in Grandpa’s basement listening to tube radios is quickly dispelled when visitors see a modern transceiver and computer being used to work the world,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA.

Depending on participation by EGAR members, the event may also be used to demonstrate the latest digital modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X, making it an excellent opportunity to explore emerging areas of Amateur Radio and show how the service remains at the forefront of communication innovation.

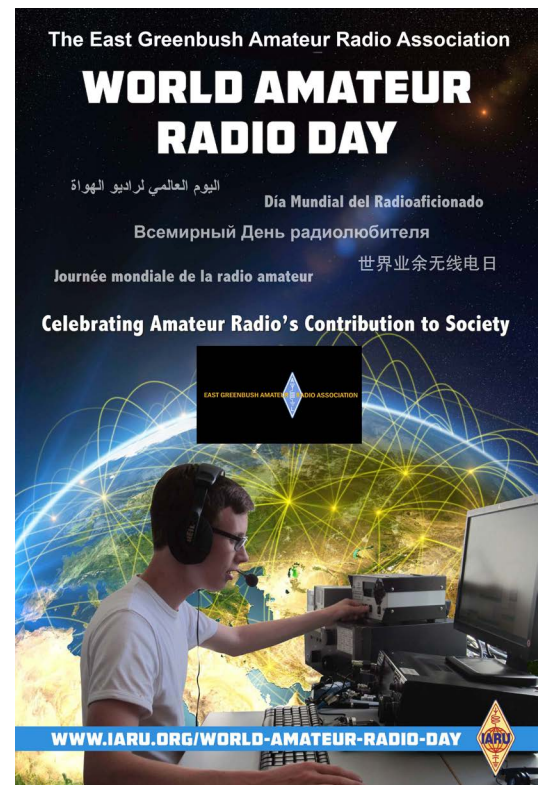
For example, visitors might see a Software-Defined Radio (SDR) waterfall display, hear the corresponding signal, and watch the decoded message appear on screen — a powerful demonstration of how modern Amateur Radio works.

World Amateur Radio Day, is observed annually and is celebrated globally by hams and their national associations, organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was in April 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

The inaugural ARRL Ham Radio Open House last year coincided with IARU’s centennial celebrations. This year’s activity is part of ARRL’s “Year of the Club” theme.

EGAR plans to highlight and promote the Open House event on the club website and issue a news release to local media that invites the public to attend. In addition, the club has submitted its event to the interactive Ham Radio Open House Map Locator being hosted by ARRL on its website.

More details are available at: www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.



Pebble HF: An Ultra-Affordable QRP Radio Kit with Big Potential!

By Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL

Recently, a new community-driven radio project was unveiled: The Pebble HF. In short, it's an incredibly affordable radio kit—one that almost anyone can build and, most important, almost anyone can afford.

The Pebble HF was born out of passion from the Ham Radio Duo—Becky (N4BKY) and Mike Madison (N4FFF). Their website can be found at: <https://hamradioduo.com/>. The project was created in collaboration with Barb Asuroglu (WB2CBA), as a way to give back to the hobby. The hardware design is based on Barb's work, paired with firmware by Guido Ten (PE1NNZ).

Mike and Becky first reached out to me a while back to mention the project, and a few weeks ago, they told me they had prototype boards ready. They asked if I'd like to build one—and of course, I jumped at the chance. I was genuinely excited to get this little radio on the bench and see what it could do. One thing I really appreciate is how they're rolling this out -- using a sort of "group buy" model. Early supporters will pay \$50 US to help fund initial production and bring costs down for future builders. If you enjoy supporting community-driven, open-source-style projects, this is a great one to get behind—your early support directly helps make it more accessible for others down the road. The YouTube video about the Pebble HF can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6cWHiaaO9w>.



Building the Kit

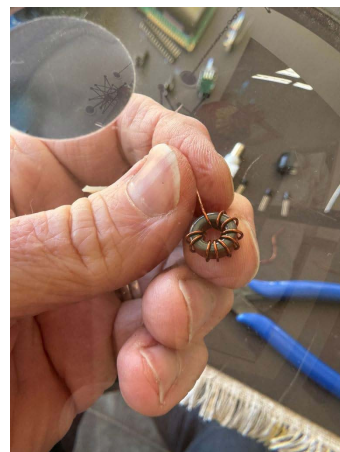


As soon as the Pebble HF arrived a few weeks ago, I couldn't wait to build it. I laid out all of the parts on the table, and got started. In short: this is an extremely approachable build. I truly think even a first-time kit builder could tackle it. All of the surface-mount components are already populated on the board, so everything you install is through-hole. There are only about 14 components in total.

Yes, there are two toroids to wind—one with 7 turns and one with 10 turns—but honestly, these are nothing to fear. Each one takes about a minute or two max, and they're very straightforward. The only challenge is, of course, carefully removing the coating on the ends of the magnet wire. Even that isn't difficult. There's also an LCD display with multiple pins to solder. The pin spacing is reasonable, and with a little patience, even a beginner should have no trouble.

The only advice I'd offer: take your time. While everything is through-hole, the component density on the board is fairly high, so you'll want to be careful not to accidentally touch any of the pre-populated surface-mount components with the tip of your iron. All told, I completed the build in about 50 minutes, deliberately taking my time.

I did make one small mistake—I misread the orientation of a diode by relying on one of the earlier build videos. It wasn't a big deal and was easy to fix. Mike and Becky have since updated their build video to make this clearer. Had I read the written instructions (I didn't realize at the time there were written instructions!), I would have avoided the mistake entirely.



(continued on page 4)

The Pebble HF...



First On-Air Test

As soon as the build was complete, I took the Pebble HF outside for a quick test. I deployed a 20-meter end-fed half-wave in the front yard with a simple goal: make at least a couple of CW contacts using the built-in straight key on the front panel.

At the last minute, I decided to record a video—and even piped the audio directly from the radio into my digital recorder. Initially, I thought I might just share the footage with Mike and Becky, but in the end, I decided to publish it on YouTube.

After adjusting a few settings—filter bandwidth, audio levels, and so forth—I found W9MET calling CQ POTA. I called once, and to my surprise, he came right back to me! I tuned around a bit more, and I'll be honest—propagation that day was pretty darn poor. It took some hunting to find another workable station, but when I did, I logged a second contact with KD1RT after just a couple of calls.

Flexible Power Options (and a Really Cool Trick)

One of my favorite features is how flexible the Pebble HF is when it comes to power.

Using the barrel connector, you can power it with anywhere from 7 to 14 volts DC (per Mike and Becky). I've run it on both 12V and 9V.

But here's the really cool part: it also has a USB-C port.

During my first full activation, I powered the radio directly from my phone—just a USB-C cable from the phone to the radio. That provides about 5 volts, and the Pebble HF outputs roughly one watt at that level. Think about that for a moment. A brand-new operator could get on the air without even buying a battery—just use their phone!

Combine that with the built-in straight key and microphone, and you've got an incredibly simple, ultra-portable, comprehensive station. It's very easy to imagine a sub-one-pound field kit built around this radio.

Final Thoughts (So Far)

I'm genuinely excited about the Pebble HF. It's one of the most interesting and meaningful projects I've seen introduced to the QRP community in quite some time. Mike and Becky, along with Guido and Barb, have put a lot of thought and effort into creating something that lowers the barrier to entry in a very real way.

I suspect demand is going to be strong—and they may have a hard time keeping up, especially during these early group-buy stages.

If you'd like to learn more about the project—or better yet, become an early backer—check out: <https://pebblehf.com>



EGARA March Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Introductions were made by all members (13) and guests (1) present.
- President's Report: No report from President Pat Negus, W2PMN, was made.
- Vice President's Report: No report from Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR, was made.
- Secretary's Report: Secretary David Jaeger, K2DEJ, noted that a correction needed to be made to the February 12, 2026 Egara Meeting Minutes. The minutes stated that Secretary Jaeger recorded them when he was in fact absent at the time of the meeting. The minutes for the February 12, 2026 meeting were actually recorded by Board Member Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. A motion was made by member Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO and seconded by Board member Don Mayotte, KB2CDX to make the correction, the motion was carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peter Brickman, KD2YLG, provided the club's latest financial standing, including deposits and expenses.
- Board of Directors Report: Board member Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, noted that the club had made several sales on behalf of the Hickey Estate and that the proceeds from the sales would go back to the family. Jackson also noted that a number of items donated to the club by the estate of a local resident had been sold.
- Jackson also noted that the IRS 990 Report for 2025 had been filed for the club, maintaining its non-profit status. In addition, he reported that the club's Liability Insurance was renewed for \$350.00. Jackson added that a copy of the policy would be forwarded to WTEN.
- Club members found that there were new leaks inside the WTEN building where the club houses its VHF Repeater. WTEN was informed and noted that they would inform its corporate headquarters to assess the situation.
- It was reported that Len Signorachi, N2LEN, had offered Egara a repeater controller in exchange for a tax deduction. The controller will allow Echolink to be restored to the club's VHF repeater.
- Jackson reported that the Search and Rescue building had been cleaned the previous week.
- Club members were reminded that elections for officers and the board would be held at the April meeting. Open positions included: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board seat.
- President Pat Negus, W2PMN stated that he would be stepping down as President. A nomination for Bryan Jackson to run for the position was made by Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO. Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR stated that he would be stepping down as Vice President. Member Matt Saplin, W2SAP nominated himself for Vice President. Secretary David Jaeger, K2DEJ and Treasurer Peter Brickman, KD2YLG stated that they would run for re-election. Member Dave Gillette, KC2RPU stated he would run for the open board seat. Outgoing VP Walt Snyder, N2WJR, also nominated himself for the post. (see story on page 1)
- It was noted that Dues were payable and members must be paid up and in good standing to vote in elections.
- Jackson noted that Ham Radio Open Houses are being encouraged to observe World Amateur Radio Day. (see story on page 2).
- Member Updates: A suggestion to make a \$200.00 donation to the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue was made to thank them for accommodating Egara and allowing them to use their space. A motion was made Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ and seconded by Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, the motion was carried unanimously.
- Member Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC suggested that the club should make a presentation to the Navy Sea Cadets to attempt to attract younger members to the hobby and the club.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

-- Minutes recorded by Secretary, David Jaeger, K2DEJ

On the Beam News & Notes

Spring to Bring Repeater Site Maintenance & Gear Upgrades

It was a long, cold winter and the weather took a bit of a toll on the former WTEN analog transmitter site where the club's VHF repeater is located.

Sitting atop the Helderberg Mountains, the climate can be particularly harsh and unforgiving. Fortunately, EGARA's repeater system held up through the winter without a problem. However, the building experienced some issues, with a new leak developing in the old main transmitter room. Upon discovery of the problem, club officials immediately contacted WTEN Chief Engineer Steve Pingelski to inform him of the problem.

Within a couple of days, Skyway Roofing was on the scene to inspect the building and suggest repairs. Club members also assisted WTEN by providing photos and drone video of the roof.



A Skyway Roofing inspector prepares to check out the source of a newly discovered leak at the former WTEN analog transmitter site in the Helderberg Mountains.

With spring now here, the club will once again take on yard maintenance of the site, as well as cleaning the building and making light repairs that might be required. This year, mowing the grass is expected to be easier thanks to the club's purchase of a riding mower last fall.

With the coming warmer weather, the club also hopes to relocate its VHF repeater antenna to the former analog tower that sits adjacent to the building. The plans also include adding a UHF repeater to the site and Echolink to the VHF repeater. The date of the upgrade will be both weather dependent and when it can be scheduled by Bob Isby, K2RHI, who owns the tower maintenance company Algonquin Communications. Bob's contributions to the club have been many and notable, including securing the Motorola repeater now in service at the site.

Field Day 2026 Set for Jun 27 - 28



Spring is here and Field Day 2026 will be here before you know it. This year it is expected to bring together more than 30,000 Amateur Radio operators for one of the most popular ham events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "*Amateur Radio: A National Resource.*" EGARA will discuss plans for the event at its upcoming meetings. The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions.

In the past, EGARA has operated at the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue Building and it's anticipated it will operate there again this Field Day. For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit: www.arrl.org/field-day.

Want to Learn Morse Code? Try Morse Mania!

With the elimination of Morse Code as a requirement for getting a ham license, this once prevalent communication method has fallen out of favor and has been replaced by SSB and digital modes. But being able to decipher those “dits” and “dahs” still intrigues those who never mastered the art of pounding a key.

Now, thanks to modern technology, it's easier than ever to learn this old technology and it's called “Morse Mania”.

Morse Mania is an educational game app available from BlueStacks. It runs on both Android and iOS for an immersive gaming/learning experience. So, if you want to learn Morse code and have fun at the same time, look no further than Morse Mania!

With 270 exciting levels, this app helps you master the Morse code by advancing through the ranks through audio and visual steps.

Morse Mania is really more than a game as it caters to both sending and receiving modes. It starts with the simplest letters like E and T, and progressing to more complex ones. Once you've mastered all the letters, numbers and symbols, you'll advance to Prosigns, Q-codes, abbreviations, words, callsigns, phrases, and sentences.

This game has many exciting features to offer. With 135 levels to teach you to receive and another 135 levels to teach you to send, you'll be a Morse code master in no time.

There are five output modes to choose from, such as audio, blinking light, flashlight, vibration and light + sound. You can also use one of seven different keys for sending Morse code.

Morse Mania has 52 challenge levels to test and consolidate your knowledge, as well as a custom level option where you can create your own level to practice symbols of your choice. You can save your own list of symbols and load it anytime, making it easy to pick up where you left off.

The free levels cover the alphabet, while the “pro” version adds the more advanced Morse shortcuts that cover such things as phrases and sentences.

Download Morse Mania from the Google Play store for Android phones or from the Apple store for iPhones.

Try it and you'll be surprised at how quickly you can begin to master the art of CW.



**WARREN COUNTY RADIO CLUB
HAM RADIO SWAP MEET
APRIL 11TH 2026 10AM UNTIL 2PM**



**INSIDE THE COMMON AREA
AT THE AVIATION MALL
QUEENSBURY, NY EXIT 19 OFF I-87
ENTRANCE NEAR 99
RESTAURANT/PLANET FITNESS**

**ENTRY IS FREE \$10 FEE PER TABLE TO SELL
RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

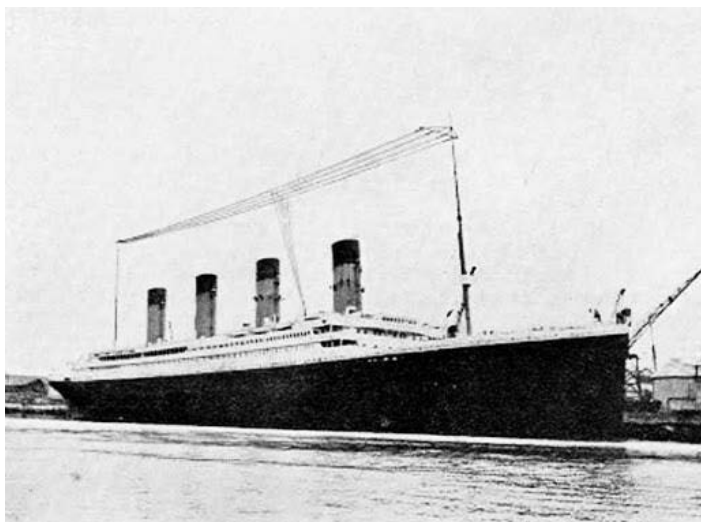
**LICENSE TESTING
WILL BE HELD AT
9:00AM IN THE OLD
AMERICAN EAGLE
STORE**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
AMATEUR RADIO?
CHECK OUT OUR PUBLIC INFO TABLE OR
DISCOVER MORE AT WWW.W2WCR.ORG**

On-Air Titanic Memorial to Mark Anniversary of Sinking

It's been 114 years since the Titanic took over 1,500 lives when it sank in the icy waters of the North Atlantic, but the disaster still resonates around the world. And again this year, Amateur Radio will observe the infamous tragedy with the on-air Titanic Memorial to commemorate all those aboard the Titanic on April 14, 1912. It was at 11:40 p.m., the ship struck an iceberg with the resulting collision causing the Titanic to sink at 02:20 on April 15th.



**The Titanic before leaving Southampton.
It shows the majestic Marconi T-antenna.**

The event will take place starting at 00:00 UTC on April 10th, the date on which the Titanic set sail from Southampton, England bound for New York City. It will run until 23:59 on April 15th, the date on which it sank. It is being sponsored by the Unión de Radioaficionados de Vigo-Val Miñor -- the Amateur Radio Union of Vigo-Val Miñor, a local group of ham radio operators located in the Vigo and Val Miñor region of Spain.

Contacts will be available on the HF, VHF, UHF and SHF bands, depending on conditions. All modes will be worked, with special emphasis on CW telegraphy. A confirmation card will be sent via bureau, eQSL and LoTW to each contact made with the station EG1912T in any mode or band. All stations that contact EG1912T in CW will receive a special card for telegraphy QSOs only.

The memorial plans to particularly honor those who participated in the rescue, especially the radio station managers and telegraph operators Jack Phillips, Harold Bride, and Harold Cottam. They played a leading role in the telegraphic communications of the most shocking rescue in history -- the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Phillips and Bride were the first and second telegraph operators on the Titanic. Cottam was the telegraph operator on the Carpathia, the first ship to come to the rescue.

The Marconi room, where Jack Phillips and Harold Bride carried out their radio communications, was equipped with the most advanced technology of the time. However, during the voyage, the radio broke down, and for two long days, the operators worked to repair it, disregarding Marconi's prohibition, which only allowed his equipment to be repaired by technicians appointed by him. The emergency set they were supposed to have used was much lower power than the main set they were able to fix. Their efforts paid off, as the more powerful set allowed them to communicate much farther when Titanic needed to call for help.

Bride survived the sinking of the Titanic, however Phillips perished with 1,500 others who were aboard the ill-fated liner.

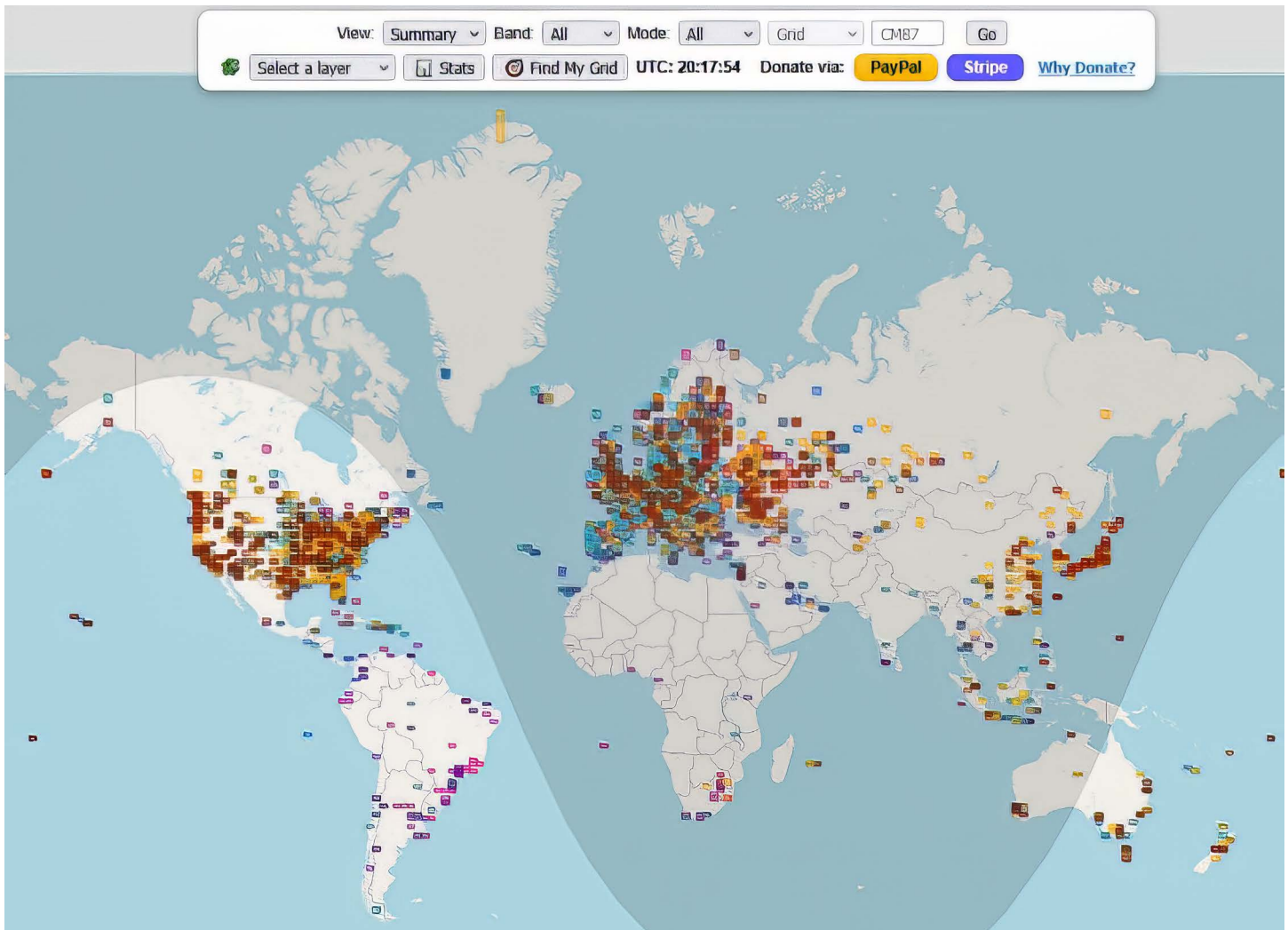


**The only known photo of Titanic's radio room,
with operator Jack Phillips operating the ship's
5,000 watt spark transmitter**

DX Look Adds New Features

DXLook has introduced a new map layer system that allows additional data to be displayed directly on top of its propagation maps.

The first available layers include North America Rain Radar and North America Snow Radar, providing real-time weather context alongside HF propagation data. Layers can be enabled or disabled individually to avoid clutter and preserve map readability.



The new layer framework is designed to be extensible, and additional layers are planned. The DXLook team invites users to suggest new layer ideas and reliable public data sources that may benefit the amateur radio community.

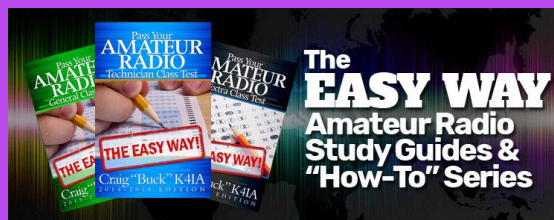
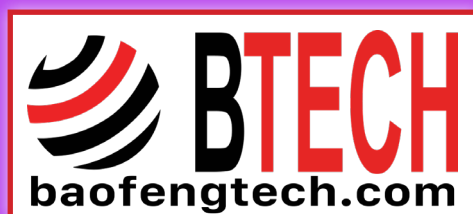
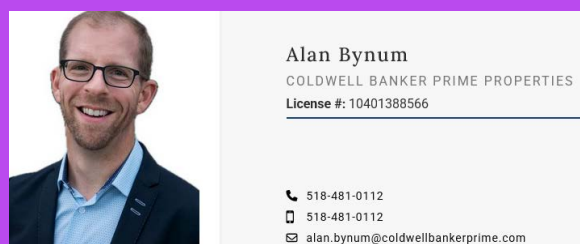
This update also brings back user-requested controls:

- Hide / Show Arcs, to toggle propagation paths
- Hide / Show Labels, to control callsign and time labels

Several UI and cosmetic improvements were also made to the main menu, improving usability on both desktop and mobile devices.

DXLook is available at: <https://www.dxlook.com>

Please Support EGARA's Hamfest Sponsors and Corporate Partners!



CALENDAR

April 9, 2026 @ 7 pm - Regular Monthly Club Meeting, Search & Rescue Building - Club Elections.

April 25, 2026 - EGARA Amateur Radio Open House, East Greenbush Library, 1 to 4 pm.

May 30, 2026 - Annual EGARA Hamfest. East Greenbush Town Park.

Pro Tip: Easy RF Exposure Calculator

Hams are responsible for ensuring their RF emissions aren't harmful to others. But how do you calculate whether the RF from your equipment and antenna is at safe levels?

Luckily, there's an on-line calculator that makes the job a lot easier! It's available from the ARRL and is available at: <https://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>.

Just enter the required info (power, antenna gain, frequency, etc.) and it does the work. There's also a link to detail instructions in case you have questions.

Parameters

- Power at Antenna: (Need help with this?) (watts)
- Mode duty cycle:
 Conversational SSB, no speech processing (mode duty cycle=20%)
- Transmit duty cycle: (time transmitting)
 You transmit for minutes then receive for minutes (and repeat).
- Antenna Gain (dBi): (Need help with this?)
- Operating Frequency (MHz):

☒ Include Effects of Ground Reflections

This calculator should not be used for antennas that are less than 20 cm (8 in) from a person.

Results for a controlled environment:

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mW/cm²):
 Minimum Compliance Distance (feet):
 Minimum Compliance Distance (meters):

For an uncontrolled environment:

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mW/cm²):
 Minimum Compliance Distance (feet):
 Minimum Compliance Distance (meters):



GEAR FOR SALE

Large Estate Sale Continues

Great bargains on a wide variety of ham gear and accessories!

Visit:

www.egara.org/buy-sell-swap

For full equipment list
PDF download

ICOM IC-71A Communications Receiver. Coverage: 100 kHz – 30 MHz, AM, CW, SSB, RTTY, FM. Features include a quadruple conversion receiver, direct keypad entry, two VFOs, 32 memories, notch filter, noise blanker, and passband tuning. Scanning functions are included. Tuning steps are down to 10 Hz increments. In very good condition, checked and working properly. Current Retail market value is \$300. Price: \$225.

Seller Contact: EGARAradio@gmail.com

See the complete listing of gear for sale at:
www.EGARA.org/amateur-radio-classifieds

Sell your unused gear with a
free ad in Sidebands and online!
Send details to: EGARAradio@gmail.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.